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"Thus, in La Vendée, the author demonstrates the working of an 'animal prophylaxis' progressing in efficiency with the progressive diminution of the 'anopheline density'—a state of affairs which in some other parts of Europe has culminated in equilibrium.

"The author proposes that along with the approved measures for reducing anopheline density in countries still notoriously malarious, the organization of 'animal prophylaxis' should be undertaken. He remarks that in some parts of the world enough is already known of the preferences of the dangerous local *Anopheles* for certain local domestic animals to warrant the deliberate employment of the shelters of these animals as gigantic traps. The first step in every case is an accurate study of the habits and predilections of each *Anopheles* species and of its relations to its preferential host; and it is this emphatic insistence upon, and logical demonstration of, the necessity of a sound basis in pure biology for rational sanitary enterprise that gives this paper a more than ordinary value."

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## **BIRTH STATISTICS AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1919.<sup>1</sup>**

### **PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FOR THE BIRTH REGISTRATION AREA.**

In the birth registration area of the United States, exclusive of Rhode Island, which failed to send in transcripts of birth certificates, 1,365,585 infants were born alive in 1919. The total number of deaths in the same area was 791,732, the births exceeding the deaths by 573,853, or 72.5 per cent.

#### **Birth Registration Area.**

The birth registration area was established in 1915, when it comprised only 10 States, the 6 New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Minnesota, and the District of Columbia. In 1916 Maryland was added, and in 1917 Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Kansas, Utah, and Washington were added. No States were added in 1918, but in 1919 Oregon and California, covering the Pacific coast area, were admitted, and South Carolina, which extended the area along the Atlantic coast, was added, making the per cent of estimated population included about 58.

#### **Comparison.**

The number of births for the year 1919 compared with 1918 shows a decrease of 7 per cent in the registration area. Each State shows a decrease, the per cent ranging from less than 1 in Maryland to 10 in Utah and Wisconsin. This is in marked contrast to previous years, as the number of births had increased from year to year.

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<sup>1</sup> A similar summary for 1918 was published in *Public Health Reports* for May 14, 1920, pp. 1149-1152.

### Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate (number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 born alive) is 87 in 1919 and is the lowest infant mortality rate on record in the birth registration area. Among the States these rates range from 63 in Oregon and Washington to 113 in South Carolina.

The foregoing are among the salient facts brought out in the accompanying table.

#### *Births and infant mortality, 1919.*

Area.	Number of births.	Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.	Area.	Number of births.	Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.
Registration area, total.....	1,365,585	87	STATES—continued.		
STATES.			Virginia.....	60,785	91
California.....	56,527	70	Washington.....	25,112	63
Connecticut.....	33,912	86	Wisconsin.....	54,781	80
Indiana.....	59,286	79	CITIES.		
Kansas.....	36,373	70	California:		
Kentucky.....	57,737	82	Los Angeles.....	9,130	67
Maine.....	15,496	91	San Francisco.....	8,369	62
Maryland.....	33,972	105	Washington, D. C.....	8,180	85
Massachusetts.....	87,817	88	Baltimore, Md.....	17,539	98
Michigan.....	83,910	90	Boston, Mass.....	18,793	97
Minnesota.....	51,942	67	Detroit, Mich.....	25,625	97
New Hampshire.....	8,778	93	Minneapolis, Minn.....	8,126	65
New York.....	226,108	84	Buffalo, N. Y.....	12,694	110
North Carolina.....	73,854	84	New York City.....	130,308	81
Ohio.....	113,054	90	Cincinnati, Ohio.....	6,939	88
Oregon.....	13,540	63	Cleveland, Ohio.....	18,393	95
Pennsylvania.....	207,905	100	Philadelphia, Pa.....	41,924	91
Rhode Island.....	(1)	(1)	Pittsburgh, Pa.....	14,465	114
South Carolina.....	44,624	113	Milwaukee, Wis.....	10,173	101
Utah.....	13,040	71			
Vermont.....	7,032	85			

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Rhode Island for 1919 are not shown because that State failed to furnish transcripts for the entire year.

### PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH, JULY AND AUGUST, 1920.

The accompanying table is reprinted, by permission, from the Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for September, 1920. The figures are based on the strength of approximately 13,000,000.

Although these rates apply to a selected group, they give comparative mortality conditions for the periods covered.

During August, there was practically no change from the low death rate shown in this same group for July, namely 8.2 per 1,000. For the last four months the rate has been well below 10 per 1,000.